

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7979–S8016

Measures Introduced: Six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2223–2228, and S. Res. 359–360. **Page S8006**

Ho Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, post-cloture. **Page S8003**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 316), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S8002–03**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 14, 2017; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S8009**

West Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Owen West, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate. **Page S8003**

Compton Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of J. Paul Compton, Jr., of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; that there be 120 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate. **Page S8003**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 315), Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S7981–S8002, S8016**

Messages from the House: **Page S8004**

Measures Referred: **Page S8004**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8004–06**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8006**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8006–07**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8007–08**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8003–04**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S8008–09**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8009**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—316) **Pages S8002, S8003**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine safeguarding American agriculture in a globalized world, after receiving testimony from former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Chair, Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Bio-defense; R. D. Meckes, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services State Veterinarian, Raleigh; Richard B. Myers, Kansas State University, Manhattan; and Raymond Hamerschmidt, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities received a closed briefing on Department of Defense global counterterrorism operations from Mark E. Mitchell, Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, Major General Albert M. Elton III, USAF, Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, Joint Staff, and Gary Reid, Director of Intelligence and Security, Office of the Undersecretary for Intelligence, all of the Department of Defense.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY/CONCUSSION IN SERVICEMEMBERS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine an update on research, diagnosis, and treatment for traumatic brain injury/concussion in servicemembers, after receiving testimony from Joel D. Scholten, Associate Chief of Staff for Rehabilitation Services for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and David X. Cifu, Senior TBI Specialist, Principal Investigator, Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium, both of the Department of Veteran Affairs; Captain Michael J. Colston, USN, Director, Military Health Policy and Oversight for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; David W. Dodick, Mayo Clinic; Steven D. Devick, King-Devick technologies, inc; and Christopher M. Miles, Wake Forest University.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2202, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2200, to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1768, to reauthorize and amend the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nomination of Barry Lee Myers, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and a routine list in the Coast Guard.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of R. D. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Kristine L. Svinicki, Chairman, and Jeff Baran, and Stephen Burns, both a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

STRATEGIC, POLITICAL, AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS OF USING FORCE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine using force, focusing on strategic, political, and legal considerations, after receiving testimony from Stephen J. Hadley, former National Security Advisor, Christine E. Wormuth, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and John B. Bellinger III, Council on Foreign Relations, all of Washington, D.C.

TREATIES

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115–2), the extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia, signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115–1), the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013, and the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014 (Treaty Doc. 114–13), and the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 114–7), after receiving testimony from Richard Visek, Acting Legal Adviser, Department of State; and Bruce Swartz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on responding to mental health needs, after receiving testimony from Elinore F. McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Johnny Collett, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, and Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, and Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Labor.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and R. Stan Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, who were introduced by Senators Isakson and Perdue, Charles Barnes Goodwin, to be United States District Judge for the Western Dis-

trict of Oklahoma, who was introduced by Senator Lankford, Matthew J. Kacsmaryk, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Matthew Spencer Petersen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Eli Jeremy Richardson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, who was introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CONSUMER WELFARE STANDARD IN ANTITRUST

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the consumer welfare standard in antitrust, after receiving testimony from Abbott B. Lipsky, Jr., and Joshua D. Wright, both of the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; Barry C. Lynn, Open Markets Institute, and Diana Moss, American Antitrust Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Carl Shapiro, University of California Haas School of Business, Berkeley.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 4635–4640; 1 private bill, H.R. 4641; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 124; and H. Res. 662–664, were introduced.

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Additional Cosponsors:

Page H9901

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 4258, to amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to strengthen the aerospace workforce pipeline by the promotion of Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program and National Aeronautics and Space Administration internship and fellowship opportunities to women, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–464).

Page H9900

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rogers (KY) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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Recess: The House recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H9851

Committee on Ethics Investigative Subcommittees: The Chair announced that the Speaker or a designee and the Minority Leader or a designee shall

each name a total of fifteen Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner from the respective party of such individual who are not members of the Committee on Ethics to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of that committee during the 115th Congress pursuant to clause 5(a)(4) of rule 10.

Page H9854

Investigative Subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 115th Congress: Representatives Wagner, Walorski, Handel, Mimi Walters (CA) and Paulsen.

Page H9854

Investigative Subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she appointed the following Members to be available to serve on an Investigative Subcommittee established by the Committee on Ethics during the 115th Congress: Representatives Castro (TX), Jayapal, McEachin, Torres, and Tsongas.

Pages H9854–59